

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038720 TOSEC 040042

NODIS

FOL RPT PEKING 250 ACTION SECSTATE 13 FEB.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0250

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (NIXON, RICHARD M.) CH US

SUBJECT: VIP VISIT: FORMER PRESIDENT AND MRS. RICHARD

M. NIXON: USLO ROLE

1. IN ABSENCE OF INFORMATION TO CONTRARY, WE ASSUME  
THAT HAN HSU'S CONTACT WITH THE WHITE HOUSE IS THE ONLY  
DISCUSSION (EXCEPTING ON SUCH TECHNICAL MATTERS AS SECURITY AND  
AIRCRAFT) PRCLO HAS HAD WITH US OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON  
ABOUT FORTHCOMING VISIT OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON. GIVEN  
"PRIVATE" NATURE OF THE VISIT, WE HAVE NOT BEEN SURPRISED  
THAT THE CHINESE HAVE TAKEN NO INITIATIVE WITH US HERE  
ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR IT BEYOND REQUESTING VISAS FOR AIR  
CREW AND PROTOCOL OFFICERS. STARTING WITH THE ARRIVAL  
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HERE OF THE ADVANCE SECRET SERVICE TEAM, HOWEVER, USLO

MAY NEED AT ANY TIME TO INDICATE TO MFA WHAT WE WOULD EXPECT OUR ROLE IN THE VISIT TO BE.

2. WE, OF COURSE, HAVE NO PRECISE PRECEDENT FOR A VISIT OF THIS NATURE AND, EVEN IN THE CASES OF THE SUPERFICIALLY-SIMILAR VISITS LAST YEAR OF THE UK'S HEATH AND WEST GERMANY'S STRAUSS, THERE WERE DIFFERENCES IN THE WAYS THE TWO EMBASSIES PARTICIPATED. IN BOTH CASES THE MISSION CHIEFS TOOK PART IN AIRPORT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AND IN DINNERS, BUT THE UK AMBASSADOR ATTENDED MEETINGS WITH PRC LEADERS AND GERMAN AMBASSADOR DID NOT. AT ANY RATE, THE VISIT OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON IS SUI GENERIS AND WILL, OF COURSE, BE A MAJOR NEWS EVENT, WITH THE ROLE OF USLO UNDERGOING CLOSE SCRUTINY FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS AS AN INDICATION OF, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE USG ATTITUDE TOWARD THE VISIT.

3. THE NATURE OF USLO PARTICIPATION WILL BE DEPENDENT, FINALLY, ON THE DESIRES OF THE CHINESE AND OF MR. NIXON. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS, WHICH ARE DESIGNED PRINCIPALLY TO SERVE THE US-PRC RELATIONSHIP WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT THIS IS A PRIVATE VISIT WHICH NEVERTHELESS WILL BE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED:

A. AIRPORT ARRIVAL. ACTING CHIEF WOULD (1) BE PRESENT AT PEKING AIRPORT TO GREET THE FORMER PRESIDENT ON ARRIVAL, AND (2) TAKE INITIATIVE, IF NECESSARY, TO INSURE THAT THE PRC MAKES APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS.

B. CEREMONIAL DINNERS. (1) WE WOULD NOT SEEK INVITATION FOR ACTING CHIEF'S ATTENDANCE, BUT (2) WE WOULD ACCEPT IF INVITED.

C. MEETINGS WITH CHINESE LEADERS. (1) WE WOULD NOT TAKE INITIATIVE FOR ACTING CHIEF'S ATTENDANCE BUT (2) WE WOULD ACCEPT IF INVITED.

D. ACTING CHIEF WOULD OFFER USLO COURTESY OF ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIVATE TYPE DESIRED (E.G., VISIT TO USLO).

E. AIRPORT DEPARTURE. PARTICIPATION SAME AS ON ARRIVAL.

4. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN ABOVE PROPOSALS, WE HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ADVISE FORMER PRESIDENT OF A AND E, WHICH SEEM TO US TO BE ESSENTIAL MINIMUM

PARTICIPATION. IT OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE ADVANCE GUIDANCE IN REGARD TO D. CONCERNING B AND C, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE FORMER PRESIDENT'S WHISHES WOULD DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT CHINESE INVITE ACTING CHIEF, AND IF DEPARTMENT WANTS ACTING CHIEF TO ATTEND, THIS WOULD BEST BE RAISED WITH MR. NIXON BEFORE HE MEETS WITH PROTOCOL CHIEF CHU.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EARLY INSTRUCTIONS, WHICH WILL ENHANCE OUR ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VISIT TO THE DEGREE AND IN THE MANNER THE DEPARTMENE DESIRES. THAER

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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